THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The information in respect of Central State Farms, being managed by the State Farms Corporation of India, is given in the statement enclosed. [*see* Appendix CLVI, Annexure No. 55]

Inadequate facilities in Indira Gandhi ESI Hospital in East Delhi

1121. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report which appeared in the Indian Express of the 3rd April, 1990 regarding inadequate facilities, unhygenic condition prevealing in sensitive departments and acute shortage of medicines in the Indira Gandhi ESI Hospital in East Delhi; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to improve the working of the hospital and to remove the deficiencies ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The press-report is factually incorrect. This Hospital was commissioned partly in November, 1988. It is now almost fully functional. It provides facilities for outdoor and indoor care in various specialities. Its casualty department provides round the clock service. E.C.G. and X-ray facilities are also available, for indoor patients. Continuous efforts are being made to further improve the working of the Hospital.

Exploitation of child labour

1122. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the "Times of India" of the 1st May, 1990 under the caption "child workers rally against exploitation"; and

(b) what is the number of child labour in the country and what effective steps Government plan to end their exploitation ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the 43rd round (during July, 1987-June, 1988) of the National Sample Survey, the number of child labourers in the country is estimated to be about 17 million.

The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits the employment of children below fourteen years of age in certain specified occupations and processes. It also seeks to regulate their conditions of work in employments in which they are not prohibited from working. There are provisions in several other labour laws such as the Factories Act, 1948; the Mines Act, 1952; the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966; the Shops and Commercial Establishments Acts of the States/Union Territories; etc. which either prohibit or regulate the employment of children in specified areas Government have also formulated the National Policy on Child Labour-1987 which provides for a number of welfare measures to minimise the exploitation of working children

Expert Committee report on grant of medical allowance etc. to journalists and non journalists

1123. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA.:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA :
SHRI CHHOTUBHAI PATEL.:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply to starred Question 83 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th December, 1989 and state :

(a) whether expert committee appointed to consider medical and other allowances for working journalists had begin to work ;

(b) if so, by when it would submit its report ; and

(c) what are the terms of reference ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Expert Committee is expected now to submit its report latest by November, 1990.

(c) The terms of the reference are to look into the ssues of safety, health and hygiene, including medical allowance, leave travel concession and overtime